

Written testimony of

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To the Michigan State Senate Committee on Education

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Dear Senators:

I was contacted by Dr. Tzeng and given the opportunity to speak at the Senate Education Committee hearing today however my work schedule conflicted with the time of the hearing. After reviewing the documents that Dr. Tzeng sent to me, I would have given my testimony against the bill allowing the inclusion of the narrow scope of four-year degrees at the Community College level. I am in complete agreement with the collaboration of the Community Colleges with Universities, much like my experience at Lansing Community College with UM-Flint. As my video indicates (YouTube.com: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hh0yEKxEYr8>), my decision to continue my education happened just last year and the University Center at Lansing Community College helped make that reality come true. It had been 23 years since I graduated transitioning myself and my life back into school was much easier with the option of attending UM-Flint through the University Center. This included the option of online course work, which meant I didn't even have to leave my home to complete. I am extremely proud of the fact that I graduated from a Community College with my initial A.D.N. degree the environment was a perfect fit for me.

With the economic challenges facing so many over these past few years' resources have become more limited. Therefore, the tuition expenses of a community college are more conducive at least for the first couple of years of college. I have two daughters, one is going to begin the Nursing Program at Lansing Community College in January and follow with her BSN at UM-Flint. My other daughter is a senior in high school and she too will begin her education at Lansing Community College with the desire to transfer to a University in a couple of years.

The impact of the inclusion of the baccalaureate degree programs into the community college curriculum could not only increase overall costs, but could potentially make an even larger impact on the overall 'community' aspect to these colleges. Continuing to secure more affordable options for these younger generations to fulfill their dreams of a college education is crucial as well. Continuing on a path for some of these community colleges with the addition of University Centers to work collaboratively with the colleges to offer more options seems the best scenario, for most if not all locales.

I want to thank you for your time and apologize for my absence.